



Fall Colors Weekend

October 21st – 23rd

Welcome to Fall Creek Falls State Park! Fall Colors Weekend is here. The forest has reached the peak of its fall color, transforming the park landscape into a vibrant palette of colors. During your visit, you will find many opportunities to enjoy hiking, picnicking, boating, and wildlife watching while taking in the beautiful scenery. We encourage you to take advantage of the programs we have arranged for your enjoyment and enlightenment.

***A parent or guardian must accompany youngsters 12 years old and younger.**

***Some craft programs may be limited to 30 participants due to limited supplies and space. First come, first serve.**

Stuart Carroll – Interpretive Specialist III
Matt Brown – Park Ranger II
David Vogt – Park Naturalist

Friday, October 21st

6:30pm **Park History Slideshow** – Meet David at the Nature Center to learn about the park's history and other valuable information about our park.

7:30pm **Night Hike** – Meet David at the lobby of the Inn for a short stroll around the lake and cabin area. You will be amazed by how much wildlife can be seen in such a high-traffic area.

Saturday, October 22nd

9:00am **Wheeler Farm Excursion** – Meet David at the Nature Center for a short drive to the Wheeler Farm to view some spectacular fall colors. Please provide your own transportation. Carpooling is recommended. This will be a moderately strenuous 2-mile roundtrip hike to a natural bridge in Cane Creek Gorge. Wear sturdy shoes or boots and bring along some water.

10:00am **Fall Colors Pontoon Boat Tour** – Meet Ranger Matt at the Boat Dock for a pontoon boat tour around the lake. There is a limit of 8 and a fee of \$5. You must sign up at the Boat Dock. In case of cancellation, no refunds can be given.

- 11:00am **Fall Colors Pontoon Boat Tour** – Meet Ranger Matt at the Boat Dock for a pontoon boat tour around the lake. There is a limit of 8 and a fee of \$5. You must sign up at the Boat Dock. In case of cancellation, no refunds can be given.
- 1:15pm **Sassafras Leaf Note Card** – Meet David at the Nature Center and make an attractive note card from the leaves of this fragrant species of tree.
- 2:00pm **Fall Colors Bike Tour** – Meet Ranger Matt in the parking area at the Dam for a scenic 6½ -mile bike tour to Fall Creek Falls and Piney Falls. This trip will feature spectacular views of Cane Creek Gorge.
- 3:00pm **Fall Color Photography Seminar** – Meet local photographer John Hargis at the lobby of the Inn to learn all about photographing the fall colors. This is a must for anyone who enjoys taking pictures. There will be a field trip after the class. Mr. Hargis' work is displayed in several areas around the park and has been published in various publications.
- 3:30pm **Tree ID Walk** – Meet David at the Nature Center to go on a short walk around the area. Along the way, we will discuss the practical and medicinal uses of trees.

Sunday, October 23rd

- 8:30am **Devotional** – Randy Garrell will be hosting an interdenominational devotional at the Inn.
- 8:30am **Hike to Fall Creek Falls** – Meet Stuart at the Nature Center for a moderate 2-mile roundtrip hike to Fall Creek Falls. This is a great opportunity to learn the park's history, view the beautiful fall colors, and gain insight into the ecological aspects of the area.
- 2:00pm **Paw Paw Hike** – Meet Stuart at the Nature Center for a 3-mile walk around the Paw Paw Trail. This trail features spectacular views of Cane Creek Gorge. Along the way, we'll take note of the beautiful forest surrounding the trail and discuss the park's history.

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation is committed to principles of equal opportunity, equal access and affirmative action. Contact the EEO/AA Coordinator at 1-888-867-7455 or the ADA Coordinator at 1-866-253-5827 for further information. Hearing impaired callers may use the Tennessee Relay Service 1-800-848-0298.

Cool Nature Fact



Do you know that the beautiful colors of deciduous trees in the fall are the result of the trees preparing for dormancy? Factors such as yearly rainfall, temperature, and photo period all work together to produce the fall colors by stimulating a reduction in chlorophyll and causing the trees to store sugars in their roots. The actual timing is primarily governed by day length and night time lows.

Forest Ecology is one of the many topics discussed in the Fall Creek Falls 2½-day or 5-day Environmental Education Program for school groups. For more information, contact the Nature Center (423) 881-5708.